



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Sharon Curtis-Flair

(615) 741-5860

**East Tennessee Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, Employee Plead Guilty to
Discharging Untreated Sewage into Ocoee River Basin**

The Supervisor of the Coppertown Utilities Basin Water District in Turtletown, (Polk Co.) TN pleaded guilty Monday to discharging untreated sewage on multiple occasions into the Ocoee River.

Randy David Adcock, the supervisor, was sentenced to a two-year suspended sentence, received two years probation, fined \$1,500 and ordered to surrender his water treatment operator license. Ricky Cochran, an employee, was sentenced to a two-year suspended sentence and fined \$750.

Polk County Judge Steven Bebb found the pair guilty of criminal violation of Tennessee's water pollution law, a class E felony. The men admitted they had discharged untreated sewage, at night, on multiple occasions, into Walkertown Branch, a tributary of the Ocoee River. The men indicated they had installed a white PVC pipe to route untreated sewage directly into the Walkertown Branch, instead of transporting the untreated sewage to an approved land disposal site.

"It is very important of the public's health and welfare to be protected," Attorney General Paul Summers said today. "Operators should act in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements and this case should demonstrate the State takes this seriously."

District Attorney General Jerry Estes said the defendants' actions posed serious risks both to public health, and to the local economy. Recreational rafting on Polk County's Ocoee River is one of Polk County's major sources of revenue. Public health officials states untreated sewage can contain bacteria capable of causing serious adverse health effects, including death, to humans under certain circumstances.

The investigation and prosecution of this case was coordinated by District Attorney Jerry Estes' Office and the East Tennessee Environmental Crimes Task Force, a multi agency task force comprised of law enforcement personnel from the Attorney General's Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the TVA Office of Inspector General Criminal Investigation Division.